

112. (Amended) A cigarette of claim 111 wherein said metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of transition metal oxides, rare earth metal oxides and lanthanide metal oxides.

113. (Amended) A cigarette of claim 112 wherein said transition metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of IVB, VB, VIB, VIIB, VIII and IB of the Periodic Table of Elements, mixtures thereof and solid solutions of two or more metal oxides.

114. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material comprising a non-combustible material including a lanthanide metal oxide for treating cigarette sidestream smoke; sheet reinforcement; a binder; and organics, said organics being combustible at a temperature of a high temperature cigarette burn zone when a cigarette is burning.

115. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 114 wherein said metal oxide is an oxide of cerium.

116. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 114 wherein said non-combustible material additionally comprises a catalyst for promoting oxidation of non-aqueous components entering said material, said catalyst being in admixture with said oxygen storage component.

117. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 116 wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of platinum group of metals, transition metal oxides, rare earth metal oxides, lanthanide metal oxides, aluminum silicates, aluminum oxides and calcium carbonates and solid solutions of two or more metal oxides.

118. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 117 wherein said catalyst is selected from the group consisting of aluminum silicates, platinum, palladium, iron, copper, silver and cerium.

119. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 118 wherein said catalyst is an oxide of cerium or a solid solution of cerium with another metal oxide of claim 117.

120. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 114 wherein said lanthanide metal is an oxygen storage component having a dual function as an oxidation catalyst and oxygen storage.

121. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 120 wherein said dual function oxygen storage component and catalyst is selected from the group consisting of transition metal oxides having multiple oxidation states and lanthanide metal oxides.

122. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 121 wherein said oxygen storage component and catalyst is an oxide of cerium.

123. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 114, wherein said metal oxide is present in said material in an amount effective for said oxidation up to about 30% by weight.

124. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 123, wherein said metal oxide is present in the range of about 5 to about 20% by weight.

125. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 114, wherein said non-combustible material additionally comprises a sorbent capable of sorbing components of sidestream smoke, said metal oxide contributing to oxidation treatment of sorbed components of sidestream smoke.

126. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 125 wherein said sorbent is selected from the group consisting of activated carbon, molecular sieves and porous metal oxides.

127. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 114 wherein said binder is selected from the group consisting of inert clays, aluminum silicate, magnesium silicate, cellulose materials, plastic and mixtures thereof.

128. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 114 wherein said binder is an organic binder, said organic binder being combustible at the high temperature cigarette burn zone of the burning cigarette.

129. (Amended) A dry precursor cigarette sheet material of claim 128 wherein said organic binder is selected from the group consisting of cellulose materials, plastic and mixtures thereof.

130. (Amended) A method of treating sidestream smoke emitted by a burning cigarette having a sheet material of claim 114, said method comprising activating said sheet material at a temperature of a high temperature cigarette burn zone of said burning cigarette.

REMARKS

The Office Action of June 19, 2002 has been received and considered. In the Office Action, claims 114, 115, 119 and 122 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 110-113, 116-118, 120, 121 and 123-130 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 69-109 were withdrawn from consideration. Applicant acknowledges the election of group II.

Claims 110-130 have been amended. Claim 110 has been amended as discussed below. Allowable claim 114 has been rewritten in independent form as suggested in the Office Action. Claims 115-130 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 114. Claims 110-130 remain pending. Reconsideration of the application is requested.